

ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

KENNETH FRASER, M.O.H.

Presented to the District Council
November 6th. 1945



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URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL



Summary of the Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health : KENNETH FRASER (part-time). Salary £150
Sanitary Inspector : J. F. SMITHIE (part-time). Salary £230

STATISTICS OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,617
Population—Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,949
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1944								8,337
Number of Inhabited Houses :—								
(a) Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,682
(b) End of 1944, according to Rate Books	..	..						2,593
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£33,181
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£127

Social Conditions.—The coal mines, and the cotton industry, are the chief sources of employment for the inhabitants. The mines and cotton factories are situated outside the area. The majority of the houses are working-class type, situated on the borders of farm lands, with a pleasant outlook. There are many dwellings of the residential villa type, of varied architecture. Orrell still retains its urban nature. There is no shopping centre. Several desirable plots of land are available for building sites. There was little or no unemployment.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

<i>Age Periods.</i>				<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
				<i>Res- piratory.</i>		<i>Non-Res- piratory.</i>		<i>Res- piratory.</i>		<i>Non-Res- piratory.</i>	
<i>Years.</i>				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0-1	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	..	..	..	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
5-10	..	..	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	..	..	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	..	..	..	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	..	..	..	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
25-35	..	..	..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	..	..	..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-65	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	..		..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals				6	7	3	2	2	1	1	—
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
				13		5		3		1	
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	

COUNCIL OFFICES,
ORRELL ROAD.

October, 1945.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Orrell Urban District
Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Orrell for the year ending December 31st, 1944. Population (Census 1931) 6,949; estimated population 1944, 8,337.

BIRTHS.—There were 170 live births, 90 males and 80 females, as compared with 154 in 1943. Five of these were illegitimate; 1943, 4. The birth-rate was 20·39 per 1,000 of the population; 1943, 18·63. The mean average birth-rate for the past 10 years was 16·54. Still births numbered 9; 1943, 5. The births exceeded the deaths by 56. The mean average number of births over deaths for the past ten years was 38.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered was 114, 54 males and 60 females; 1943, 108; rate, 13·67 per 1,000; 1943, 13·06. They occurred 58 in the East Ward and 56 in the West Ward. Two of the deaths were from violent causes, and 33 occurred in Institutions; 1943, 37. The mean average death rate for the past ten years was 12·07.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 10 infant deaths registered (children under 12 months); 1943, 5; 9 males and 1 female, occurring 5 in either Ward, giving a death-rate per 1,000 live births of 58; 1943, 32. The mean average for the past 10 years was 61. One child lived only 12 hours. Three were first born children, 5 second, 1 fourth, and 1 eleventh born. In 6 per cent. of the cases the parents were sole occupants of the home. The percentage of infant deaths to total deaths was 8·701; 1943, 4·62. Two of the children died in institutions. The chief causes of death were: 1 Premature Birth, 3 Congenital Defects, 2 Infantile Diarrhoea, 1 Acute Primary Pneumonia, and 2 Broncho Pneumonia.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.
England and Wales	46	49	49	59	55
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	52	58	59	71	61
148 Smaller Towns (resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	44	46	46	56	54
London Administrative County ..	61	58	60	68	50

DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941	1940.	1939.	1938.	Mean.
Under 1 year ..	10	5	12	12	10	12	7	9.7
1 and under 2..	1	1	1	2	1	1	—	1.0
2 to 5 years ..	2	—	—	1	3	1	1	1.1
5 to 15 years ..	1	2	—	2	2	3	—	1.4
15 to 25 years ..	3	—	3	5	2	1	—	2.0
25 to 45 years ..	8	11	8	5	11	13	11	9.5
45 to 65 years ..	40	31	22	19	31	14	25	26.0
65 years and upwards ..	49	58	56	40	57	63	38	51.5
	114	108	102	86	117	108	82	102.4

There were 14 deaths of people under 15 years of age ; 1943, 8 ; over 60 years of age, 65 ; 1943, 51 ; between 70 and 80 years of age, 25 ; 1943, 27 ; and between 80 and 90 years of age, 12 ; 1943, 15.

INFANTILE MORTALITY FROM PREMATURE BIRTHS AND CONGENITAL DEFECTS.

	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	<i>England and Wales.</i> 1929.
Premature Births ..	10%	40%	25%	41.6%	20%	41.6%	18.63%
Congenital Defects ..	30%	20%	33.3%	25%	30%	33.3%	5.20%

VARIOUS AGES AT WHICH INFANT DEATHS OCCURRED.

	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.
Under 1 week ..	3	1	5	7	2	7
„ 3 weeks ..	3	—	2	—	2	1
„ 1 month ..	6	1	7	7	4	8
1 to 3 months ..	3	2	—	2	3	2
3 to 6 months ..	1	2	3	2	2	1
6 to 9 months ..	—	—	2	1	1	1
9 to 12 months ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	5	12	12	10	12

AGES AT DEATH OF INFANTS ACCORDING TO THE POSITION OF THE CHILD IN THE FAMILY.

<i>Position of Child in the Family.</i>	<i>Weeks.</i>		<i>Months.</i>	
	1	2	1	5
First born	3	—	—	—
Second born	1	1	2	1
Fourth born	—	—	1	—
Eleventh born	1	—	—	—

There was one death from Septic Abortion; no other maternal deaths. One case of Puerperal Pyrexia was received.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—There were 2 deaths registered from this group of diseases, due to Infantile Diarrhœa, under 2 years of age. They occurred in the East Ward. Death-rate per 1,000 of the population, 0·23; percentage to total deaths, 1·75.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

<i>Disease.</i>	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.
Scarlet Fever ..	21	30	15	6	29	33
Whooping Cough .	16	21	19	33	12	8
Diphtheria ..	—	1	9	4	20	29
Erysipelas ..	4	4	2	2	1	3
Measles ..	7	165	28	33	199	—
Pneumonia ..	11	10	6	10	23	7
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	1	1	—	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	1	—	—	—
	61	233	80	90	285	80

PUBLIC HEALTH AND TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1912.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—During the year 13 new cases were reported, 6 males and 7 females, occurring 3 in the East Ward, and 10 in the West Ward. One case was not confirmed. Their ages ranged from 17 to 50 years. Ten cases received Sanatorium treatment. The deaths numbered 3, 2 males and 1 female, rate 0·35 per 1,000 ; 1943, 0·48. There remained on the register at the end of the year 31 cases, 17 males and 14 females. Case incidence 3·71 per 1,000 ; 1943, 2·903.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—New cases numbered 5, 3 males and 2 females, occurring 2 in the East Ward, and 3 in the West Ward, aged 1 to 23 years. Two cases received Institutional treatment. There was one death registered, rate 0·11 per 1,000 ; 1943, 0·12. The register at the end of the year showed 37 cases, 22 males and 15 females ; case incidence 4·43 per 1,000 ; 1943, 4·35.

The case incidence for all cases of tuberculosis was 8·15 per 1,000 ; 1943, 7·25. ; and the death-rate 0·47 per 1,000 ; 1943, 0·604.

Respiratory Diseases other than Pulmonary Tuberculosis, accounted for 22 deaths ; 1943, 13. Bronchitis 10, Pneumonia 11, other respiratory diseases 1 ; death-rate 2·63 per 1,000 ; percentage to total deaths 19·29.

Notifications of Pneumonia numbered 11, 8 males and 3 females, occurring 7 in the East Ward, and 4 in the West Ward. Four of the cases were under 5 years of age ; case incidence 1·31 per 1,000 ; England and Wales, 0·97.

Respiratory Diseases are preventable. The death-rate, including the deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Orrell was 3·11 per 1,000 ; percentage to total deaths, 22·807. The group of diseases classified as Intracranial Vascular Diseases, Heart Disease, and other Diseases of the Circulatory System, accounted for 30 deaths ; rate 3·59 per 1,000 ; percentage to total deaths 26·31. Those two groups accounted for 49·12 per cent. of the total deaths. The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the register has been on the increase, and more than doubled itself since 1939, 15 ; 1944, 31.

Age Groups of Infectious Notifiable Diseases were as follows :—

<i>Age Groups.</i>				<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>	<i>Pneu- monia.</i>	<i>Ery- sipelas.</i>	<i>Whooping Cough.</i>	<i>Measles.</i>
Under 12 months	..	..	..	—	1	—	2	1
1-2 years	..	..	..	—	1	—	—	1
2-3 „	..	..	..	—	1	—	4	1
3-4 „	..	..	..	1	—	—	3	3
4-5 „	..	..	..	1	1	—	4	—
5-10 „	..	..	..	7	—	—	3	1
10-15 „	..	..	..	6	—	—	—	—
15-20 „	..	..	..	6	—	—	—	—
20-25 „	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 „	..	..	..	—	1	—	—	—
35-45 „	..	..	..	—	1	3	—	—
45-65 „	..	..	..	—	3	1	—	—
65 and upwards	..	..	..	—	2	—	—	—
				21	11	4	16	7

They were distributed in the wards as follows :—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>East Ward.</i>	<i>West Ward.</i>
Scarlet Fever	9	12
Whooping Cough	13	3
Erysipelas	4	—
Measles	4	3
Pneumonia	7	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—
	39	22

Scarlet Fever cases were reported in each but three months throughout the year, 21 in all, 8 males and 13 females, occurring 9 in the East Ward and 12 in the West Ward. Three cases were reported from one household, and seven were treated in hospital. Ages : Two were under five years of age and 14 were of school going age. Case incidence, 2.51 per 1,000 ; England and Wales 2.40.

Whooping Cough.—Notifications numbering 16 were received, all in the first half-year, 6 in April and 6 in June, occurring 13 in the East Ward. Their ages ranged from eight months to seven years, three being of school going age. In three homes 2 members in each were affected ; case incidence 1.91 per 1,000 ; England and Wales 2.49.

Erysipelas.—Four cases were reported, all in the East Ward. One was a recurrence after an interval of two months ; case incidence 0·47 ; England and Wales 0·29.

Measles.—After the high level of 165 cases in 1943, 7 notifications were received, occurring 4 in the East Ward. One was of school-going age ; case incidence 0·83 ; England and Wales 4·16.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—One notification was received, occurring in the East Ward ; case incidence 0·11 ; England and Wales 0·05 ; death-rate 0·11 per 1,000.

Diphtheria.—There were no notifications from this disease. Bacteriological examinations were carried out in 4 cases.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.—48·69 per cent .of children under five years of age, and 65·4 per cent. under 15 years of age, completed the course.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—One case was reported ; rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) 5·58 ; England and Wales 10·34.

There was one death registered from Post Abortion sepsis. There were no other deaths from maternal causes.

Cancer and Malignant Diseases, with 21 deaths, produced the highest level since 1935 (18), occurring 5 in the East Ward and 16 in the West Ward ; rate 2·51 per 1,000 ; 1943, 0·96 ; percentage to total number of deaths 18·42 ; 1943, 7·4 ; 38 per cent. were 65 years of age and over. The mean average number of deaths for the past 10 years was 11.

Hospital Accommodation.—The health needs of the district were well served, and the gradual increased interest taken in preventive medicine by the inhabitants opens up an avenue of brighter prospects for the future. Depleted staffs at the hospitals was a source of anxiety. Fifty-nine per cent. of maternity cases occurred in Institutions. A good ambulance service was maintained.

WATER SUPPLY.—A new source of supply situated in an old shaft near Gathurst Road was put into circulation on November 3rd, and the ceremonial opening took place on November 29th. It is a good potable water of ample supply, and constant in its composition

chemically and bacteriologically. Chlorination plant has been installed, and with a view to improving the quality of the water permission is being sought to house plant for aeration, elimination of iron, and softening, in the near future. The mains were flushed regularly. A new 8 inch main (180 yards) was laid in Dean Wood Avenue.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.—No action taken.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Early in the year signs of subsidence was found in the sewer in McDonald Street. The trouble was remedied, and the man-hole rebuilt. Extermination of rats in the sewers was obtained by two applications of poison bait. Periodical flushing was carried out.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The position was similar to last year. Houses considered for demolition were served with privy middens, numbering 43, with 69 closets attached. There were no conversions.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The refuse was collected by motor, by day, and deposited at the Council's tip. Action was taken to decrease the number of rats at the tip with good effect. A satisfactory response to the appeal for salvage was maintained.

SCHOOLS.—Mumps appeared in three of the schools, in November, reaching its peak in the middle of the month, and gradually disappearing by the end of the year. A total of 114 cases were recorded, 62 of which occurred in one school. The sanitary conditions in the schools were satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There were no offensive trades carried on in the district or rag flock manufactured, used, or sold.

SHOPS ACT.—There was no action taken under the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Acts, 1936, relating to the sanitary conditions in offices.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.—The workshops in the district are mainly devoted to the local needs of the inhabitants. There were 32 workshops, five of which used mechanical power. They were inspected periodically and complied with the regulations.

HOUSING STATISTICS.—The number of houses on the rate books at the end of the year remained the same as last year, showing a distribution of 3·2 persons per house, and the density was 5·1 persons per acre. The number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects was 120, requiring 185 inspections. Defects in 74 dwelling houses were remedied by the owners requiring the service of 10 statutory notices. A few cases of overcrowding were discovered, chiefly due to householders accommodating their friends or relations from other districts. Persuasion to find more suitable accommodation proved effective. In view of the long list of applicants for fresh houses, there must be many cases of technical overcrowding. Several newly married couples are living with either parents, family increases, children growing into young persons, and the cessation of house building during the war years, are some of the causes of this overcrowding. At the census of 1931 two private families occupied 9 per cent. of the dwellings in the township. After the last war there were no new houses erected in Orrell for three years. From 1921 to 1930 114 new houses were erected by the local authority, and 109 by private enterprise. In the next decade to 1940, 257 by the local authority, and 873 by private enterprise. In 1937 private enterprise erected 289 new houses. There were no new houses erected since 1940. It is contemplated, as a housing scheme, to erect 30 temporary houses on the Green Hey Estate, and 72 permanent houses on the Rivers Estates. The chief defects were defective roofs, and down spouts, sanitary fittings, and blocked drains.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS REGULATIONS.—There were 17 dairy farms. Cow-keepers (including dairy farms) numbered 17, and the number of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cow-keepers) was 29. The dairies and shippons were inspected periodically, 68 visits being paid. The housing of the cattle was good. Cubic air space per head, ventilation and lighting complied with the regulations. There are 41 shippons in the district, 30 of which were occupied, housing 200 milch cows. The majority of the shippons are stone built, situated in large farm yards, allowing exercise for the cattle in the winter months. The cattle were habitually grazed. Prompter attention to limewashing was observed. Most of the milk produced in the district was consumed locally; some was exported, and some imported. Samples were taken and submitted for examination under the County Council.

MEAT INSPECTION ACT.—The following quantities of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption.: 1 lb. stewed steak, 5 lbs. 12 ozs. pork luncheon meat, 7 lbs. meat and vegetable ration, 9 lbs. of bacon, 12 lbs. of chopped ham, and $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. crate of marmalade.

DOMESTIC HELPS.—After the Influenza epidemic in November, 1943, which was of a mild type in Orrell, I approached Miss Baker, the leader of the Women's Voluntary Service, to interest the members of that organisation in forming an emergency domestic help scheme. I have a list of 37 members enrolled for this work, 7 of whom are leaders. They are distributed, 20 in the East Ward, and 17 in the West Ward. They have taken a course of Sick Nursing. The scheme is on a voluntary basis, and the members are grouped to aid cases which occur in close proximity to their homes. The population of Orrell is unique in being very neighbourly, and notwithstanding the number of people who are engaged in war work, they find time to help each other. The District Nurse holds a list of those members enrolled for this work with their addresses, and a list is kept at the Council Office.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.—The abolition of privy middens (43) and the closets attached to these (69) would facilitate the work in the Cleansing Department. At present difficulty is experienced in the routine clearing of these regularly.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1944.

Blocked or Defective W.C's.	1
Insufficient and Defective Provision for House Refuse	2
Blocked Sewers	1
Blocked and Defective Drains	7
Defective Houses	64
Defective Spouts	5
Houses Disinfected	44
Eradication of Bed Bugs	4
Rats in Houses (number of houses)	4
Sanitary Inspections (including Housing) numbered..	267
Number of Defects or Nuisances discovered	74
Number of Defects or Nuisances abated	74
Requiring 64 informal, and 10 statutory notices.	

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

		1943.		1944.
No. of ashpits empties during the year	..	181	..	231
„ dustbins emptied during the year	..	69,075	..	67,626
„ loads removed during the year	..	1,194	..	1,229
„ privy closets in the district	.. ..	69	..	69
„ privy ashpits in the district	.. ..	43	..	43
„ dry ashpits in the district	.. ..	6	..	6
„ dustbins in the district	.. ..	2,556	..	2,560
„ fresh water-closets	.. ..	2,609	..	2,609

I am, Gentlemen, .

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.

